

Minutes of the GOBA AGM

Held at OVRC at 11am on Sunday 28th April 2019

Ian Cox, acting Chairman, welcomed all to the AGM of GOBA for 2019, thanking the Ouse Valley River Club for hosting the event.

Attendance was signed by 44 GOBA members

1) Apologies for absence were received for J. Pridmore, E. Buttfield, Tony Langford, Michael Lazarus, Mr & Mrs Alistair Reid

2) Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 28th April 2018. The minutes had been circulated previously within GOBA news and this day posted on the notice board prior to the meeting and available to view to all members in the open GOBA news summer 2018 issue placed at the registration table. Acceptance proposed B.Lamb, sec S.Hayes, motion was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

3) Matters Arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda. No matters arising.

4) Chairman's Report IC

5) Treasurer and membership secretary's report MM. Following this report, members discussed the move to cheque free payment and accepted the recommendation, though it was unlikely GOBA will ever be totally cheque free. The accounts were commended to the AGM and accepted unanimously.

6) Secretary's Report, read by MP

7) Election of Officers and Committee. Roger Lill announced that there was only one nomination for the position of Chairman and that was for Ian Cox. Prop G.Sutcliffe, sec C.Gisborne, passed unanimously. Ian Cox took the chair and conducted the following

Secretary, nominated Edwin Buttfield, prop P.Thane, sec S.Vincent, accepted unanimously by show of hands

Treasurer, nominated Mike Mackay, prop M.Pryor, sec G.Sutcliffe, accepted unanimously by show of hands

Committee, nominated Phil Thane, Geoff Sutcliffe, Michael Lazarus, Mary Pryor, Roger Lill, all prop B.Lamb, sec L.Cox, accepted unanimously by show of hands.

8) to vote on rule 45(a) appointment of auditor or accounts examiner. The treasurer outlined the difference between the two options, the accounts examiner being the cheapest and with the same result. Mike Mackay proposed we use an account examiner, sec J.Robinson, approved unanimously by show of hands.

9) to appoint and accounts examiner. Mike Mackay proposed that C.J.Dyke & Co be appointed Accounts Examiners, sec S.Hayes, approved unanimously by show of hands.

10) Topics raised by members

Mr Edwards – losses on the legacy fund investment. Mike Mackay replied that all investment funds had suffered losses over the last 2 years and the Beckett plan was no exception and it made sense to stay with the current providers. Also increasing cost of postage, Roger Lill reported that we were not able to achieve mailsort cost savings because of the multi-layer nature of our mailings to members, 6 different letters.

Mr S Fisher – Rules and minutes are not available on the website, in fact they were yesterday. Ian Cox to investigate

Mr Philpot – was the drop in membership typical or exceptional? Mike Mackay replied this was typical and this sparked a wider debate on what to do to promote membership from visitors, new boaters, hire boaters from non - registered yards and policing GOBA moorings for non-members. All members can help with this.

Mr Brown – suggested a list of members boats, all agreed this was not feasible

11) AOB there was no other business and so the chairman was closed and the chairman handed over to the guest speaker.

Guest Speaker, James Robinson, was able to update members with recent activity of the EA on the Ouse and tributaries. This year they have been able to recruit their own crews rather than sub-out various maintenance works and so they feel they are more in control of navigation. There has been much “bushing” (removal of overhanging branches) and shoaling (dredging) to improve flow and stop the build up of duck weed and pennywort. Water levels are low for this time of the year and EA may need to issue low water warnings, not quite drought, during the summer. Willow man at Ely has been removed, wrecked boats have largely been removed, here has been extensive bushing and re-piling on the Wissey, Brownhill Staunch may have to be closed for engineering work, but plenty of warning will be given and Houghton Lock footbridge will be repaired this summer. The EA have bought 2 new skimmer boats to clean the Old West early and before infestation. The EA still has a problem prosecuting unregistered “live-aboards” on the river under the 1977 Anglian Waterways Act which limits the punitive action the EA can take and James urged GOBA to take this up at every level to get the legislation changed. If members see a miscreant they are encouraged to take a photo and send it to the EA, contact details in GOBA News.